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May 18, 2005

The Honorable Mike Johanns  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I would like to thank you for your response to my letter regarding potential violations of the Hatch Act by Department of Agriculture employees prior to last year's presidential election. While I disagree with the conclusions of the Office of Special Counsel that the employees did not violate the Hatch Act, I am pleased that you have taken steps to ensure employees will comply with the spirit and letter of the law.

Thank you again for your thoughtful response.

Sincerely,



John Conyers, Jr.  
Ranking Member